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SUBJECT Status of Sulphuric Acid Production

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**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

- 25X1X6 1. The SMA and the German Economic Commission were unsuccessful in negotiating for any large scale imports of crude phosphates or pyrites for 1949. The negotiations with Norway for the import of pyrites have reached a deadlock. Other negotiations concerning deliveries from Italy and Portugal can not proceed because of lack of dollar instruments. It seems apparent that the Eastern Zone of Germany will not be able to obtain imports of sulphur or sulphuric acid from anywhere, and will be able to obtain only the following quantities of pyrites in 1949:

60,000 tons from Flbingenrode, Germany  
20,000 tons from Bulgaria (poor quality)  
10,000 tons from Sweden and Norway.

Poland is not in a position to export pyrites. Hungary and Rumania need most of their pyrites, and would export any excess to Czechoslovakia. The only other possible source would be Yugoslavia, whose normal annual export of pyrites is between 50,000 and 100,000 tons. However, because of the present political situation, it is possible that Yugoslavia may choose to export pyrites to Austria, Switzerland, and Bizonia. Even if Yugoslavia should choose to export to countries in the Russian orbit, it is possible that the Czechoslovakian demands may be even more acute than those of the Russian Zone of Germany.

2. It is predicted that the sulphuric acid production in the Eastern Zone will decrease to about 5,000 tons a month.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: The planned production of sulphuric acid for January 1949 was 12,750 tons of SO<sub>2</sub>.)

3. At the present time plans are being made to overcome these difficulties. Various plants in the Russian Zone of Germany previously used for the production of sulphuric acid, which are not dependent on pyrites, are now being repaired. Plans are being made to have the gypsum-sulphuric acid plant at "olfen repaired. Attempts are being made to repair the sulphuric acid

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plant at Böhlen which makes use of waste hydrogen sulphide gases.

4. Two other processes for the manufacture of sulphuric acid are also being investigated. One method is the decomposition of magnesium sulphates to obtain magnesium oxide and sulphuric acid. There is one such plant in the American Zone, at Hattorf, which encountered many technical difficulties during the war. Another project is the reclaiming of sulphuric acid and soda lye from the artificial silk and cellulose factories. The process is now being carried out experimentally at the Spinnfaserfabrik in Glauchau. The process is a complicated round-about procedure, which, however, has the advantage that all of the intermediate steps produce usable by-products. The process depends on the crystallization of the waste Glauber's salts, the production of sodium sulphide and soda, and finally the production of sulphuric acid by the wet catalyzer or contact process, and soda lye by causticization.

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